

Message Text

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SUBJ: GOB CREATES COMMISSIONS TO STUDY CHILEAN SEA
OUTLET PROPOSAL

1. SUMMARY: YESTERDAY'S (JANUARY 6) MEETING OF THE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS RESULTED IN THE ISSUANCE OF A SUPREME DECREE DIRECTING THE CONSTITUTION OF A NATIONAL MARITIME COUNCIL (CONSEJO NACIONAL MARITIMO). THE COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE PRESIDED OVER BY PRESIDENT BANZER AND WILL INCLUDE MINISTERS INVOLVED IN THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WILL SUBMIT THE CHILEAN REPLY TO BOLIVIA'S DEMAND FOR A SOVEREIGN SEA OUTLET TO IMMEDIATE STUDY BY PERSONS OF RECOGNIZED ABILITY AND EXPERTISE SO THAT THE GOB WILL BE FULLY PREPARED AND COMPETENT TO ENTER THE NEXT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHILE.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE DECREE CONSTITUTING THE NATIONAL MARITIME COMMISSION (CONAMAR) NAMES THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AS ITS PRESIDING OFFICER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, PLANNING AND
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COORDINATION, INTERIOR, THE THREE ARMED FORCES

COMMANDERS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESS AND INFORMATION OF THE PRESIDENCY, AS WELL AS OTHER CITIZENS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT AS MEMBERS. A COORDINATOR APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT WILL SERVE AS LIAISON WITH THE MARITIME ADVISORY COMMISSION (COMISION DE ASESORIA MARITIMA) WHICH WILL BE COMPOSED OF FOUR WORKING GROUPS ACTING AS ADVISORS TO THE NATIONAL MARITIME COUNCIL. THE WORKING GROUPS WILL STUDY ECONOMIC, MARITIME, SECURITY AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF BOLIVIA'S LANDLOCKED CONDITION, AND WILL BE COMPOSED OF PERSONS WITH SOME EXPERTISE, AND NOT NECESSARILY ASSOCIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

3. THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION WILL BE DRAFTED UNDER THE LAW OF OBLIGATORY CIVIL SERVICE, WILL WORK FULL TIME AND WILL BE FULLY REMUNERATED. THEY WILL PERFORM THEIR TASKS IN COMPLETE SECRECY AND ANY UNAUTHORIZED REVELATIONS WILL BE PUNISHED UNDER THE MILITARY PENAL CODE.

4. \$750 THOUSAND DOLLARS WILL BE OBLIGATED IN THE 1976 NATIONAL BUDGET FOR THE SALARIES AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

5. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION (CNES) HAS INFORMED THE RECTORS OF THE EIGHT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES THAT THE GOB HAS REACTED POSITIVELY TO THE OFFER OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY TO COOPERATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHILE. CNES IS NOW PROPOSING THE FORMATION OF A TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION COMPOSED OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF LA PAZ, ORURO, AND POTOSI AND A JURIDICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION COMPOSED OF THE OTHER FIVE TO STUDY SEA OUTLET PROPOSALS.

6. COMMENT: BOLIVIANS ARE DETERMINED TO BE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ARE GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE PERUVAIN REACTION TO THE CHILEAN PROPOSAL WILL BE POSITIVE AND THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHILEANS WILL BE RENEWED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE NEAR FUTURE. THE GOB IS ACTING TO INCLUDE THE LARGEST NUMBER OF KNOWLEDGEABLE CITIZENS POSSIBLE IN THE INTERNAL DELIBERATIONS SO AS TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY AND BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION.
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